



# News Release

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

1301 N. Orchard St., Boise, ID 83706 - TEL: (208) 327-7900 FAX: (208) 327-7866

*Internet Homepage: <http://www.idwr.state.id.us>*

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**LOW INTEREST LOANS NOW AVAILABLE**  
**FOR MORE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR ELECTRIC SYSTEMS**

**For Immediate Release**  
**Boise, Idaho – April 5, 2002**

**For Media Information:**  
**Dick Larsen – (208) 327-7933**

State energy managers have opened up low-interest loans to Idahoans whose homes are connected to electricity grids but who want to install photovoltaic (PV) solar electric generating systems, the Idaho Energy Division announced today.

Previously, the 4 percent loans were not offered for solar electric systems for “grid connected” homes, homes already connected to local utility electric lines. Energy managers say they believe the change will increase demand for PV systems and provide the long-range benefit of reducing load on the electricity system.

Under the new loan guidelines PV system installation projects at grid-connected residences can be financed at 80 percent of the project cost up to a maximum of \$10,000. Residential solar electric projects located in areas not served by an electric utility may be eligible for 100 percent financing up to \$10,000.

Grid connected PV systems must comply with utility interconnection and safety requirements. Some utilities in Idaho have tariffs that offer net metering.

Depending on the utility involved, the electricity generated by the PV system can offset power bought from the utility resulting in a reduced electricity bill, a system called “net metering,” according to energy managers. The homeowner’s electricity meter can actually run backward if power generated by the PV system exceeds the power they consume.

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The Idaho Energy Division's loan program provides low-interest loans to finance the development of energy conservation or energy generation projects that utilize renewable energy resources. Renewable energy resources include solar energy, wind power, geothermal, hydropower and biomass energy.

Residential loans are also available for insulation, space heating system replacements, water heating upgrades and wood heat systems. Other sectors of the program include commercial, governmental, agricultural and schools, hospitals and health care facilities.

To find out more about the loan program or to obtain an application, call the Idaho Energy Hotline, **1-800-334-SAVE (7283)**. Applications are also available on the Department of Water Resources web site at **[www.idwr.state.id.us](http://www.idwr.state.id.us)**. Look at the "Popular Choices" column and select "Energy Loan Forms."